

Khutba

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Husband-wife relation

Dear Muslims,

Family is the forming unit of the society and is responsible for bringing new individuals for the community. The atmosphere within the family will, to large extent, determine the type of individual will be brought. If the child grows in healthy atmosphere, surrounded by care and love from his parents, he/she will most likely become a good and useful individual for his society and vice versa.

Marriage is the only way to establish family in Islam. Many guidelines and rules concerning marriage is well defined in Islam, with the ultimate role to establish a good family atmosphere and hence a healthy society. Some of these guidelines are concerned with the husband-wife relationships and their obligations towards each others. It defines the individual responsibilities and aims to establish mutual love and respect between wife and husband.

“And among His Signs is this, that He created for you mates from among yourselves, that ye may dwell in tranquillity with them, and He has put love and mercy between your (hearts): verily in that are Signs for those who reflect” Al-Rum 21

Abdullah Ibn Omar reported the Prophet as saying (*Every one of you is a guardian and is responsible for his charges. The ruler who has authority over people, is a guardian and is responsible for them, a man is a guardian of his family and is responsible for them; a woman is a guardian of her husband's house and children and is responsible for them; a slave (Abu) is a guardian of his master's property and is responsible for it; so all of you are guardians and are responsible for your charges*) **Narrated by Al-Bukhari and Muslim.**

The relationship between a husband and his wife is all about affection, respect, faithfulness, cooperation in being loyal to Allah, and contribution to the building of a wholesome society. Even in times of dispute, mutual understanding and fairness should be the dominant arbitrators. The first step to make this happen is the choice of the right partner followed by understanding the rights and the obligations of each part.

The right partner can only be defined by the other partner. However there are general characters that should be present in the person to be a “possible” good partner. These characters are faith morals and wellbeing. The Prophet (PBUH) said: (*If the religious and the moral qualities exist in the proposed partner, accept the proposal, otherwise it would turn out to be a greatest corruption on earth*) **Narrated by A-Termithy.**

He also Said (*A woman may married for four reasons: for her property, for her rank, for her beauty, and for her religion (and character). So marry the one who is best in the religion and character and prosper*) **Narrated by Al-Bukhari and Muslim.**

He also insisted: (*Choose (proper mothers or fathers) for your semen (male or female sexual discharge), and marry the proper ones and give them (your daughters) in marriage*) **Narrated by Ibn Majah.**

And said: (*Life is a joy and the best joy in life is a good wife*) **Narrated by Muslim**

However, these are only guidelines and men and women are equally free to choose their partner. Enforcing marriage, especially for women, is strongly prohibited in Islam because it will lead to deteriorous effect on the family and in turn on the community.

On the other hand, the obligatory part concerning marriage in Islam is related to the rights of the other partner. There are certain obligations each of the partners should fulfill towards the other. These are summarized below:

The Wife's Rights; The Husband's Obligations:

1- Consort with his wife in an equitable and kind manner. Allah Almighty says, **"...consort with them in kindness, for if ye hate them it may happen that ye hate a thing wherein Allah hath placed much good"** Al-Nisa' 19.

2- Have responsibility for the full maintenance of the wife, a duty which he must discharge cheerfully, without reproach, injury, or condescendence. Allah Almighty says: **"Let the women live (in 'iddat) in the same style as ye live, according to your means: Annoy them not, so as to restrict them. And if they carry (life in their wombs), then spend (your substance) on them until they deliver their burden: and if they suckle your (offspring), give them their recompense: and take mutual counsel together, according to what is just and reasonable. And if ye find yourselves in difficulties, let another woman suckle (the child) on the (father's) behalf * Let him who hath abundance spend of his abundance, and he whose provision is measured, let him spend of that which Allah hath given him. Allah asketh naught of any soul save that which He hath given it. Allah will vouchsafe, after hardship, ease"** Al-Talaq 6-7.

"The mothers shall give suck to their offspring for two whole years, if the father desires to complete the term. But he shall bear the cost of their food and clothing on equitable terms..." Al-Baqarah 233.

The Wife's Obligations; The Husband's Rights:

The main obligation of the wife as a partner in a marital relationship is to contribute to the success and blissfulness of the marriage as much as possible. She must be attentive to the comfort and well-being of her mate. She may neither offend him nor hurt his feelings. Perhaps nothing can illustrate the point better than the Qur'anic statement which describes the righteous people as those who pray saying: **"Our Lord! Grant unto us wives and offspring who will be the joy and the comfort of our eyes, and guide us to be models of righteousness"** Al-Furqan: 74.

Dear Muslims,

That was a brief summary for the obligations for both partners, which we need to understand and follow in order to reform our communities. Since we live in a non Muslim community, we are challenged and exposed to other culture with many disadvantages and bad concepts. The level of family commitment and connection is poor and we can easily be dragged to the same level if we are not careful. The only way to avoid that is by being committed to our religion and our religion obligations. Especially for our children, we need to make them bound to religion in order to avoid them being deviated or corrupted by these communities. This is also achieved by reforming ourselves because children follow their parent's path. **"And those who believe and whose families follow them in Faith,- to them shall We join their families: Nor shall We deprive them (of the fruit) of aught of their works: (Yet) is each individual in pledge for his deeds"** Al-Tur 21.

We ask Allah to help us to reform ourselves, our families and our children; and to help us all follow his path in all aspects of our lives.

Amen

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